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Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE
IN 17231

156

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

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DIST 22 JULY 1967

COUNTRY: PANAMA

Mandatory Review

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>2
(C)

DOI: 21 JULY 1967

Case # NLJ00-138

Document # 15b

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION BY PRESIDENT ROBLES OF POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES
OF DELAYING TREATY RATIFICATION UNTIL JUNE 1968

PADA:

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

SOURCE:

1.

[REDACTED] CONCERNING TREATY PROBLEMS ON 21 JULY, PRESIDENT MARCO ROBLES REMARKED THAT SOME OF HIS ADVISERS WERE SUGGESTING THAT RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE MAY 1968 ELECTIONS. HE SAID THIS IS AN INTERESTING POSSIBILITY AND HE IS CONSIDERING IT, COMMENTING THAT A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY IN JUNE 1968 WOULD ENABLE HIM TO AVOID

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THE POLITICAL BLACKMAIL OF POLITICIANS DEMANDING SPECIAL FAVORS IN EXCHANGE FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE U.S. WOULD THEN BE IN THE MIDST OF A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN WHICH MIGHT AFFECT SENATE RATIFICATION, ROBLES BRUSHED THIS OFF, SAYING "LET THEM WORRY ABOUT THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, WHICH THEY KNOW BETTER HOW TO HANDLE."

2. ROBLES DID NOT COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE OPPOSITION MIGHT WIN THE MAY 1968 ELECTIONS IN PANAMA. HE SEEMED TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE WILL WIN.

3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ROBLES WAS TALKING VERY MUCH LIKE THE GAMBLER THAT HE IS REPUTED TO BE. HE HAS LISTENED TO EVERYBODY, BUT HAS CLEARLY NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND AND WILL MAKE HIS MOVE WHEN HE THINKS THE TIME IS RIGHT.)

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
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4. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, NAVY, AIR, PANCANAL, CINCSO, CINCLANT

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